

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 ARA-06

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R 160734Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4695

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY EELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SP

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SPANISH OFFICIALS TO SWEDEN

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 2141 (B) STOCKHOLM 1497 (C) MADRID 1635

1. DURING CALL MAY 15 ON MFA SECRETARY GENERAL SVERKER ASTROM TO DISCUSS ANOTHER MATTER, I ASKED HIM ABOUT VISIT TO STOCKHOLM LAST WEEK OF THE CHIEF OF THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S POLITICAL DIVISION, LOS ARCOS AND AQUIRRE (PHONETIC) HEAD OF THE MFA EUROPEAN DIVISION, (REF A). ACCORDING TO ASTROM, THE VISIT OF THE SPANISH OFFICIALS WAS A RETURN VISIT FOR ONE MADE TO MADRID LAST YEAR BY THE THEN CHIEF OF THE SWEDISH MFA'S POLITICAL DIVISION, COUNT WILHELM WACHTMEISTER. HE SAID ARCOS AND AQUIRRE HAD MET WITH WACHTMEISTER'S SUCCESSOR IN THE MFA, LEIF LEIFLAND, AND HAD DISCUSSED INTER ALIA THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION.

2. ASTROM SAID THAT ALTHOUGH A MINISTERIAL LEVEL EXCHANGE
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OF VISITS WITH SPAIN IS OUT OF THE QUESTION AT THE PRESENT

TIME, THE GOS WISHES TO CONTINUE CONTACTS AT THE "RELATIVELY LOW LEVERL" OF CHIEFS OF POLITICAL DIVISIONS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THE GOS IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF RAISING THE LEVEL OF THE CONTACTS TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL LEVEL, WHICH WOULD ENTAIL A VISIT BY HIM (ASTROM) TO MADRID.

3. I ASKED ASTROM WHAT THE GOS HOPED FOR IN SPAIN. HE REPLIED THAT WHILE THE GOS WANTS SOMETHING BETTER THAN FRANCO, THEY VERY DEFINITELY DO NOT RPT NOT WANT A COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER IN THAT COUNTRY. I ASKED ABOUT THE VISIT TO SPAIN IN APRIL OF A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY DELEGATION (REFS B AND C). ASTROM SAID THAT PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO RENEW LONGSTANDING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND SPANISH SOCIALISTS, WHICH WERE ROUGHLY ANALOGOUS TO THOSE BETWEEN THE SWEDISH AND PORTUGESE PARTIES. THAT THE SWEDES COULD MEET WITH THEIR SPANISH COUNTERPARTS IN SPAIN, HE SURMISED REFLECTS THE RATHER ENIGMATIC SITUATION NOW PREVAILING IN THAT COUNTRY.. ASTROM ADDED THAT IN THE SWEDISH VIEW, TIME MAY BE RUNNING OUT IN SPAIN, AND CERTAIN MATTERS WOULD HAVE TO BE SETTLED BEFORE FRANCO DIED IF CHAOS IS TO BE AVOIDED.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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